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长期生态学研究为沙地生态恢复和 适应性管理提供理论与技术支撑

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摘要 中国科学院鄂尔多斯沙地草地生态研究站(以下简称"鄂尔多斯站")自建站以来,针对我国沙地草地荒漠化严重的问题,以沙地草地生态系统为研究对象,从各个层次上对草地沙化产生和发展的过程和机理进行长期定位研究,为区域经济可持续发展、荒漠化防治与环境治理提供理论基础和实验示范。30年来,鄂尔多斯站基于长期监测、野外调查和长期控制实验,揭示了气候变化和人类干扰下沙地草地生态系统的过程变化和稳定性的维持机制,引领了沙地植物生态学的研究,在国内外产生重要影响。主要贡献包括: (1) 揭示了沙地植物对环境的多样适应对策; (2) 阐明了植物性状间耦合关系与生物多样性的大尺度变化规律; (3) 探明生物/非生物因子对沙地生态系统结构与功能的调控机制; (4) 开创性提出荒漠化综合治理的"三圈"范式,推动了区域可持续发展。为我国沙地生态系统的恢复重建和生态生产功能提升提供理论与技术支撑。

关键词 沙地草地,荒漠化防治,长期定位监测研究,"三圈"范式,沙地生态学

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沙地泛指草原地带内出现的沙质土地。在我国的半干旱和半湿润地区,广泛分布着沙地,比较典型的有毛乌素、浑善达克、科尔沁和呼伦贝尔等四大沙地,面积约120000 km²[1]。沙基质是沙地区别于其他生态系统的最主要生态因素。沙基质的不稳定性导致风沙活动频繁、沙地生态系统稳定性较差,在全球变化及人为干扰过程中受到的威胁较大,容易发生不同

程度的退化^[2]。国内外科学家围绕沙地生态系统退化和恢复开展了大量工作,取得了一定的研究成果。中国科学院鄂尔多斯沙地草地生态研究站(以下简称"鄂尔多斯站")是最早在我国沙地草地建立的野外站之一,建站的目的是针对当时毛乌素沙地日益严重的荒漠化问题,长期定位监测鄂尔多斯沙地草地生态系统和生态环境变化,开展荒漠化防治研究和试验示

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范。建站30年来,鄂尔多斯站对沙地草地生态系统的结构和功能及其沙化的过程和机理开展了系统研究,为沙地草地荒漠化治理、受损生态系统恢复和重建、生物多样性保育等提供了重要的理论基础和技术支撑,为以毛乌素沙地为代表的我国退化沙地生态系统的恢复重建与区域可持续发展作出了重要贡献。

1 通过研究植物不同生活史阶段,揭示了沙 地植物对环境的多样适应对策

针对沙地植物不同生活史阶段对沙地生境的适应 策略开展研究,揭示了沙地植物繁殖阶段(产生种子的有性繁殖和克隆分株的无性繁殖)和营养生长阶段 对环境的多样适应对策。

(1) 种子阶段对环境的适应性研究。植物种子阶段的适应性是植物生态学研究的重要方面。沙地重要植物通过多样的种子生理休眠/萌发机制来适应温带半干旱区的沙基质环境。鄂尔多斯站长期开展植物种子对环境的适应性研究,引领我国种子生态学的发展。

鄂尔多斯站围绕种子休眠与萌发、土壤种子 库、种子异型性和种子黏液特性开展了一系 列深入研究。研究发现了具有生理休眠特性 的种子存在季节性休眠循环特性并受到沙埋 的调节, 为沙地植物种群更新的种子生态学 机制提供了新的认识[3];证实了种子黏液可 被土壤微生物降解,并通过与土壤微生物之 间的相互作用,促进了幼苗建成[4],调控了 幼苗出土[5];黏液还通过水合作用阻止动物 对种子的采食和传播[6]。种子异型性是一种 "两头下注"的适应策略,在母体效应作用 下不同异型种子比例在代间有很大变异。一 些沙地植物可以通过母体效应产生不同比例 的异型种子适应异质性环境[7]; 植物母体所 经历的环境条件对子代表现有显著影响,代 间可塑性可为种子异型性植物物种响应环境

的时空异质性提供多样化生长和繁殖策略[8]。

(2) 植物克隆繁殖对环境的适应性研究。鄂尔多斯站长期开展植物克隆性研究,引领我国克隆植物生态学的发展。克隆植物在沙地生态系统中居优势地位。研究发现一些重要的沙地植物通过克隆整合、克隆储存和克隆扩展等特性适应沙地生境异质性,克隆植物沙埋分株忍受沙埋的能力因克隆整合作用的存在而显著加强,从而增强了植物对沙丘运动的生态适应性^[9](图1),克隆性状能通过影响植物群落组成、结构和动态,进而影响沙地生态系统功能^[10]。

(3) 沙地灌木营养生长阶段对环境的适应性研究。频繁的风沙活动是半干旱区沙地的最主要环境特征之一。鄂尔多斯站开展了沙地植物应对强风和风沙活动的适应策略及沙地植被稳定性维持机制方面的研究,发现沙埋条件下灌木茎的机械稳定性相关性状的变化在种内是一致的[11];油蒿灌丛在沙丘半固定阶段通过有效的更新实现种群快速扩张,而在沙丘固定阶段后期则通过植株萎缩来维持种群大小[12];一些沙

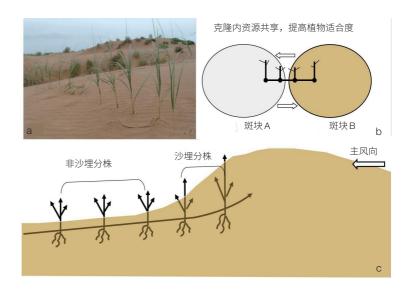


图 1 克隆整合有助于沙鞭耐受沙埋干扰

Figure 1 Clonal integration helps *Psammochloa villosa* tolerate sand burial disturbance

- (a) 沙鞭在流动沙丘上克隆生长; (b) 克隆整合提高植物适合度的机理; (c) 克隆内资源共享提高了沙埋分株的存活率
- (a) Clonal growth of *Psammochloa villosa* on moving sand dunes; (b) mechanism of clonal integration to improve plant fitness; (c) intraclonal sharing of resources improves the survival rate of sand buried ramets

地优势植物植株大小相关性状对风因子产生相似的响应,而茎部性状对风因子的响应则具有种间特异性,说明植物应对风因子胁迫过程中产生不同性状间的平衡策略^[13]。

2 开展不同空间尺度植物适应与响应研究, 阐明了植物性状间耦合关系与生物多样性 变化规律

在样带尺度、区域尺度和全球尺度上,鄂尔多斯站对地上/下植物性状协同变异和生物多样性开展研究,揭示了植物性状、生物多样性和生态系统功能的地理分布格局。

(1) 在干旱/半干旱区样带尺度上: 叶和根经济学性状在不同的生态学尺度上均存在耦合关系,提高了植物对资源的利用能力,拓展了植物经济型谱理论 [14];跨干旱/半干旱区的两条降水样带研究证实了优势植物种沿水分梯度上的地上/下碳氮库的解耦合,是植物对旱区环境的一种适应策略 [15];在北方半干旱区草原地上/下生物多样性关系的研究中,发现植物多样性与土壤真菌多样性存在较强的耦合关系,土壤真菌多样性有助于退化草原生态系统的生物多样性恢复 [16]。

(2) 在区域尺度上: 北方重要的植物类群蒿属植

物不同物种化学计量学特征对区域环境梯度有不同的响应,物种效应解释了化学元素含量及化学计量特征中最大的变异,证实了即使亲缘关系近的物种在响应环境变化上也存在差异^[17-19];蒿属植物叶、茎和根之间都存在很强的异速生长关系,揭示了蒿属植物对半干旱区气候与土壤梯度变化的适应机制^[20]。

(3) 在全球尺度上: 土壤种子库对于维持地上植被多样性具有重要作用。鄂尔多斯站建立了全球土壤种子库数据库,发现了全球尺度上土壤种子库具有明显的空间格局(图 2)。植物多样性较高的低纬度地区的土壤种子库密度较低,在受自然或人为干扰后的复原力更差。揭示了土壤种子库的全球分布格局及其环境驱动因素,为全球生物多样性的保护与恢复提供了新的视角^[21]。全球土壤种子库分布格局的研究结果于 2021 年发表在 Nature Communications。

3 研究沙地生态系统变化过程,探明了生物/ 非生物因子对沙地生态系统结构与功能的 调控机制

通过研究沙埋、光因子、降水等非生物因子和微生物等生物因子在物质循环、碳储量、生态系统生产力的相对作用,鄂尔多斯站研究人员揭示了沙地生态系统结构与功能的关键调控因子。

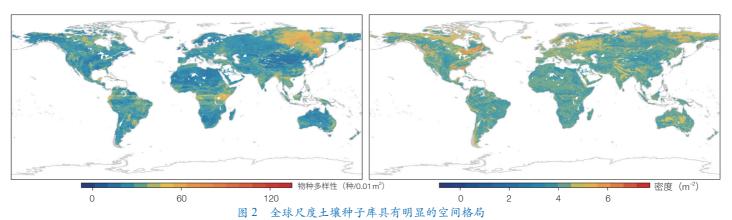


Figure 2 The global soil seed bank has obvious spatial pattern

(a) 每平方分米的物种数量; (b) 每平方米种子数量; 其中图 b 数据经过 log10 转换

(a) Diversity in terms of number of species per 0.01 m²; (b) density as number of seeds per m²; In figure b, values are log10-transformed to facilitate viewing

(1) 在沙地生态系统结构方面:阐明了种子萌发生物学相关的功能性状在干旱区植物种群和群落动态中、在物种共存和物种多样性维持中起到的重要作用^[22];维持沙地生态系统放牧的可持续性需要优先选择耐干旱、耐啃食的灌木饲料物种^[23];种植灌木比种植草本更有利于沙地草地荒漠化防治,并且能够极大地提高沙地草地的碳储量^[24]。

(2) 在沙地生态系统功能方面: 植物凋落物分解是沙地生态系统碳和营养周转的重要环节。光分解是影响沙地生态系统叶凋落物碳氮矿化过程的重要因素 [25] (图3); 叶表面性状与化学性状对沙地生态系统凋落物分解速率有着不同的影响, 为全球碳循环模型的完善提供了新的思路^[26]。沙埋通过改变土壤微生物的丰度和组成极大地促进了沙地木质残体的分解 [27]; 沙埋显著影响了沙地植被净地上初级生产力,改变了生态系统碳储量在土壤中的垂直分布^[28,29]。

4 开创性提出荒漠化综合治理的"三圈"范式

自 20 世纪 80 年代以来,由于人类活动和全球变化的共同影响,毛乌素沙地荒漠化趋势日益严重,



图 3 不同梯度光分解受控实验揭示沙地植物凋落物降解过程和调控机制 Figure 3 Controlled experiment of photodegradation with different gradients reveal degradation process and regulation mechanism of plant litter in sandland

成为我国北方沙尘暴的主要来源地,给我国北方特别是京津及华北地区生态安全和区域经济的持续发展造成巨大威胁。为了应对日益严重的荒漠化,自20世纪90年代起,鄂尔多斯站以张新时院士为代表的科研人员对毛乌素沙地开展了长期调查研究^[30]。在充分研究鄂尔多斯高原生态环境特点,特别是水分平衡特征和景观多样性的基础上,提出了4项鄂尔多斯高原生态-生产范式建造及植被恢复重建的生态原则,即以水为核心、生物气候条件为基础的生态规划原则,以灌木为主、丰富生物多样性原则,以防护林体系特定结构、配置的原则,以半固定沙地和综合治理原则,以此创建了鄂尔多斯高原荒漠化土地可持续治理的优化生态-生产范式(即"三圈"范式^①)并进行了试验示范,建立"三圈"范式概念下的荒漠化防治综合技术示范地10000亩,取得非常好的示范效果^[31-33]。

鄂尔多斯高原"三圈"范式的成功经验被广泛应 用到其他生态区域,如天山北部山地一绿洲一过渡 带一荒漠系统的生态建设与可持续农业范式、内蒙古 锡林郭勒的"三带"模式、华北山间盆地生态-生产 范式,以及黄土高原丘陵沟壑区小流域优化生态-生

产范式等,充实了边际生态系统管理的理论与实践;同时"三圈"范式在空间尺度上扩大,形成了我国大尺度的荒漠化防护圈(即"大三圈")范式,主要由荒漠、草原和农牧交错带3部分组成,是从全国尺度上安排、解决土地沙化、沙尘暴和生态—生产建设的宏观格局。

鄂尔多斯站已成为利用高新技术防治 荒漠化的试验示范基地,先后承担了联合 国开发计划署(UNDP)项目、科学技术 部"973"项目和科技支撑计划项目,以 及国家自然科学基金委员会、中国科学院

① 三圈:外圈为封育区,中圈为径流园区,内圈为高效种植区

等与荒漠化防治相关的项目或课题20余项。以鄂尔多斯站为基地开展并以"三圈"范式为核心内容的《沙漠化发生规律及其综合防治模式规律研究》,荣获2006年国家科学技术进步奖二等奖(图4)。

5 结语

30 年来, 鄂尔多斯站围绕国家生态建设的重大科技需求开展长期生态学研究和示范工作, 为沙地草地荒漠化治理、受损生态系统

的生态恢复和重建、生物多样性保育等提供了重要的理论基础和技术支撑,为区域可持续发展作出了重要贡献。自1991年建站以来,鄂尔多斯站承担国家自然科学基金委重大项目、原国家科委攻关项目、科学技术部"973"项目、科技支撑计划、国家重点研发计划项目、中国科学院战略性先导科技专项等项目及课题131项,发表论文546篇,其中SCI论文317篇,培养博硕研究生130余名,在国内外产生了重要的影响。

未来,鄂尔多斯站将在沙地生态系统及环境要素的变化规律、沙地生态系统适应性技术与管理,以及生态系统对全球气候变化和人类干扰(如矿山开采)的响应等方面继续积累数据,开展长期生态学观测、研究与试验示范,挖掘沙地生态系统长期演变规律及其对全球变化的响应机制,提升野外观测数据的质量及其对外服务和共享,以期成为我国北方半干旱区沙地草地生态系统长期生态学观测与研究的高水平开放平台,进一步为我国退化沙地生态系统的恢复重建和高质量发展作出积极贡献。

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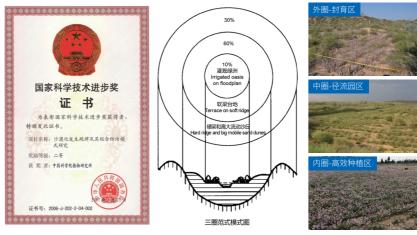


图 4 鄂尔多斯站荒漠化综合治理"三圈"范式

Figure 4 "Three circles" paradigm of comprehensive desertification control in Ordos Ecological Station

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Long-term Ecological Research Provides Theoretical and Technical Support for Ecological Restoration and Adaptive Management of Sandland Ecosystem

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Abstract Since its establishment, the Ordos Sandland Ecological Research Station, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as Ordos Station) has aimed at the serious problem of the desertification in sandy grasslands in China. Taking the sandy grassland ecosystem as the research object, the Ordos Station has conducted long-term monitoring and research on the process and mechanism of grassland desertification at all levels, which has provided theoretical basis and experimental demonstration for regional economic sustainable development, combating desertification and environmental management. Over the past 30 years, based on long-term monitoring, field investigation, and long-term experiments, the Ordos Station has revealed the process and mechanism maintaining the stability of sandy grassland ecosystems under climatic change and human disturbance, which has led the research of sandy plant ecology and had an important impact in China and abroad. The main contributions include: (1) revealed the diversified adaptation strategies of sandy plants to the environment; (2) clarified the coupling relationship among plant traits and large-scale variation patterns of biodiversity; (3) verified the regulation mechanism of biological/abiotic factors on the structure and function of sandy ecosystem; and (4) creatively put forward the optimized "3-circles" eco-productive paradigm for sustainable management of desert lands, which has promoted regional sustainable development. These contributions have provided theoretical and technical supports for the restoration and reconstruction of sandy grassland

ecosystems and the improvement of ecological functions in China.

Keywords sandy grassland, combating desertification, long-term monitoring and research, "3-circles" eco-productive paradigm, sandland ecology



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